

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Criminal Girls: Invite Only

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1700225.000

Medium: Computer Game

Distributor: NIS America Ltd

Country of origin: Japan

Language: English

Applicant: Chief Censor

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| Classification: | Objectionable. |
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 26 June 2017

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 26 June 2017

| | Components | Running time |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Game: | Criminal Girls: Invite Only | |
| Total running time: | | |

Summary of reasons for decision:

The Chief Censor called the game in for classification due to concerns that its sexual content focuses on children and young persons and involves elements of sexual violence. 'Criminal Girls: Invite Only' is a Japanese anime-themed turn-based role playing game. The game introduces the player character as an unwitting job seeker brought into hell to reform the spirits of seven 'delinquent' girls, so they might be reborn without sin. The way in which the game sexualises and objectifies its female cast for the player's titillation, even represented in the anime style as they are, presents a clear attitudinal harm of normalising the sexual objectification and availability of women and girls. In order to progress through the game's levels the player must perform acts of a sexual nature on unwilling female characters and is actively encouraged to do so by the game's reward system. These acts are performed

in situations where consent is not only absent, but where the protestations of the female characters is part of the game's attraction. Due to the absence of consent on the part of the female characters, or any legitimate BDSM context, these acts amount to sexual violence. There is a strong likelihood of injury to even an adult audience from the trivialisation of such behaviour and attitudes which is likely to have a detrimental effect on wider society. This classification is a limitation on the right to freedom of expression as set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, but is justifiable given the high risk of injury to the public good, which cannot be adequately prevented by an age restriction.